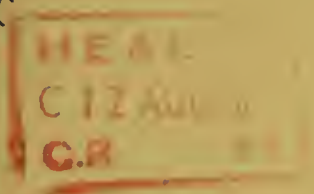


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BOROUGH OF REIGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T. H. Bingham, M.D., D.P.H.

Together with the



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. Janes, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

1959

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.
(Telephone No. Redhill 2265/6)

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Pupil Public Health Inspector:

TERENCE BRAY

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1959. The Report contains the information requested in the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, as amplified by Circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health, and in the main follows the same arrangement as earlier issues in the same series.

There was no cause of sickness or invalidity that was specially noteworthy in the area during the year, apart from the occurrence of a considerable number of cases of influenza, with respiratory complications, in the late Spring and epidemic prevalence of measles amongst the child population in the early Summer; both infections were relatively mild in type and associated with low mortality. As in other parts of the country, the incidence and severity of scarlet fever were somewhat greater than usual. Reference is made to the very sharp decline in the prevalence of whooping cough and poliomyelitis and to the continued low case rate for all forms of tuberculosis. Attention is again drawn to the satisfactory rates of acceptance of protective inoculation against the range of diseases for which effective immunising agents are now available.

The vital statistics for 1959 compare favourably with those previously recorded in the Borough and with those for the country as a whole. Although the recorded birth rate of 13.95 is below that for 1958, there was marked reduction in the mortality of new-born infants and in the proportion registered as stillborn, the rates in both cases being appreciably lower than those for England and Wales. The crude death rate of 11.58 is the lowest for ten years, mainly because of lower mortality in the advanced age groups. Attention is drawn to the reduction in the number of deaths ascribed to malignant disease (including cancer of the lung), hypertension and coronary disease, and to the record low level of mortality from respiratory tuberculosis.

Brief reference is made to further progress in implementing the Council's five-year programme for the clearance of unfit dwellings and to the measures taken to ensure a satisfactory standard of purity and quality of water, milk and food supplies, the prevention of atmospheric pollution, sanitary inspection, supervision of caravan and camping sites, duties under the Factories and Shops Acts, disinfection and disinfestation and other matters having a direct bearing on environmental hygiene.

I gratefully acknowledge the valuable help I have had from Mr. G. Janes, Chief Public Health Inspector, the highly efficient service given by every member of my staff and the assistance and close co-operation of officials engaged in other Departments of the Corporation. My sincere thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support and consideration they have very kindly extended to me throughout the year.

I am, Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM

Medical Officer of Health

Caberfeigh,
Redhill.

25th July, 1960

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	..	..	..	..	..	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1951	..	..	..	..	..	42,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1959	..	..	..	..	..	50,580
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1959 according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	15,466
Rateable Value (1959)	..	..	..	..	..	£921,854
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£3,700

Population

The resident population of the Borough at mid-year, 1959 was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 50,580 . This represents a population increment of 820, or 1.6 per cent., in the preceding twelve months, of which 120 is attributable to natural increase (i.e. the number by which the live births exceeded the total deaths) and 700 to migration into the area. The population gains under both headings, and particularly the latter, are very much above the average for the Borough.

Births

A total of 706 live infants (361 males and 345 females) were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The recorded birth rate for the year was, therefore, 13.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 15.0 in 1958, 13.8 in 1957 and an average rate of 14.4 for the preceding five years. To make allowance for differences in the age and sex distribution of the local population as compared with that of the country as a whole, and to take into account the presence of sterile population in certain institutions in the Borough, the recorded birth rate is adjusted by the application of an "area comparability factor". When so adjusted the local birth rate for 1959 is advanced to 14.0, which compares with 16.5 for England and Wales.

The illegitimacy rate was 44 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 34 in 1958 and 36 in 1957.

The decline in the birth rate in 1959 was accompanied by a very sharp reduction in mortality of infants under the age of one year; the infant mortality rate for the year was 14.1 per 1,000 live births, as compared with the National rate of 22.0. The proportion of infants registered as stillborn fell to 16.7 per 1,000 total births, the corresponding rate for the country as a whole being 20.7.

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere and members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area, but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to the districts in which they normally resided. The total number of deaths so assigned was 586, of which 257 were of males and 329 of females.

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The death rate calculated on this total is 11.58 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 13.16 in 1958, 11.61 in 1957 and 12.14 in 1956. When adjusted in the prescribed manner for purposes of comparison, the local rate is reduced to 9.4, which compares with 11.6 for England and Wales in the same period. The fall in the recorded death rate in 1959 was in the main due to reduction in the numbers of deaths of persons, particularly males, in the advanced age groups.

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age group</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 1 year	..	4	6	10
1 - 5 years	..	2	1	3
5 - 10 years	..	1	-	1
10 - 15 years	..	2	-	2
15 - 20 years	..	1	2	3
20 - 30 years	..	4	2	6
30 - 40 years	..	2	9	11
40 - 50 years	..	10	12	22
50 - 60 years	..	42	22	64
60 - 70 years	..	48	46	94
70 - 80 years	..	80	91	171
80 - 90 years	..	55	107	162
90 and upwards	..	6	31	37
		<u>257</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>586</u>

Reference has already been made to the reduction in the number of infants who died before reaching the age of one year. Eight of these failed to survive for one month, including seven who died in their first week. Six of the infant deaths were attributed to extreme prematurity, one to gross congenital deformity, one to respiratory infection, one to an unusual form of septic meningitis and one to inattention at birth; the last-named was the subject of a Coroner's inquest.

Rather more than one-third of the total deaths were attributed to affections of the heart and circulation, in most cases associated with senility. This proportion is not unduly high and it is of interest to note that relatively fewer deaths were ascribed to hypertension and coronary disease.

There were 122 deaths from all forms of cancer and malignant disease, as compared with 126 in 1958, and an average of 88 per annum in the preceding ten years. The total deaths from this cause represent a mortality rate of 1.97, which compares with the National rate of 2.14. With regard to the organs affected, it may be noted that there were no fatal cases of malignant disease of the female reproductive organs; there were eight such cases in 1958. There were fewer deaths from cancer of the lung than in the previous year, though the total number is above the average for the past few years and is equivalent to a mortality rate of 0.33 per 1,000 of the population; the corresponding rate for England and Wales in 1959 was 0.46.

The mortality from acute infectious diseases, including pneumonia, was exceptionally low, while that from tuberculosis of the lungs was the lowest yet recorded in the Borough; the death rate for other respiratory diseases was also very much lower than usual. The numbers of deaths from suicide and motor vehicle accidents were the same as 1958, though there was some slight reduction in the number due to other accidental causes.

The numbers of deaths ascribed to other specified causes are set out in Table III and do not differ significantly from those recorded in recent years.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 (As amended by the
National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951)

An Order was made under the above-named Section for the removal to hospital, or other suitable premises, of a Borough resident who was certified to be urgently in need of care and attention which she was unable to give to herself and was not receiving from other persons. The lady concerned was living alone, in grossly insanitary surroundings, and was suffering from severe and extensive varicose ulceration. The provision of domiciliary medical and nursing attention, the cleansing of the premises and the removal and destruction of fouled domestic items and personal effects, as a preliminary to the supply of domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme, and the services rendered by various official and voluntary agencies effected some temporary improvement over a period of six months or so. At the end of that time conditions rapidly deteriorated because of lack of co-operation and refusal to accept further help. The Order directed removal to St. Anne's, Redhill, for a period of three weeks, later extended to three months, and was executed without difficulty or active opposition.

There were two other cases in which the need for similar action was carefully considered; one eventually agreed to accept institutional care, which was made available almost immediately, and the other was enabled to maintain a reasonable standard of care and hygiene through the assistance of the usual domiciliary social services. The assistance and close co-operation of Mr. Lovelock, the Principal Divisional Welfare Officer, in dealing with these cases is deserving of special mention.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year are set out in Table I and comparative statistics for the years 1934 to 1959 are shown in Table II. The number of deaths from specified causes are classified in Table III.

TABLE I

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICSLive Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	343	Females	332	Total	675
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	18	Females	13	Total	31

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.9
Do. 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.0
Do. for the five years 1954 to 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.2

Still Births

Legitimate	..	..	Males	6	Females	6	Total	12
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.7
Do. do. 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.0

Total Live and Still Births

Males	367	Females	351	Total	718
-------	-----	---------	-----	-------	-----

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	4.3
--	-----

Infant Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under the age of one year:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	4	Females	4	Total	8
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	2	Total	2

Infant Death Rate:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	14.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..					11.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						64.5

Deaths of infants under the age of 4 weeks:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	3	Females	3	Total	6
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	2	Total	2

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	11.3
--	----	----	----	------

Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..	..	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	1.4

Deaths (nett):-

Males	..	257	Females	..	329	Total	586
Do. 1958:-							
Males	..	318	Females	..	337	Total	655

Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.5
Do. 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.1
Do. for the five years 1954 to 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.2

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions	58.0
---	------

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	122
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

TABLE II

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1934 - 1959

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
						Reigate	England
1934	35,400	417	12.4	409	11.5	39	59
1935	35,720	399	11.8	407	11.3	52	57
1936	36,000	456	13.2	443	12.3	36	59
1937	36,360	451	13.0	447	12.2	40	58
1938	36,630	478	13.6	415	11.3	32	53
1939	37,090	463	13.1	454	11.7	34	50
1940	41,970	447	11.1	579	14.2	34	55
1941	42,040	519	13.6	574	13.6	67	59
1942	40,060	581	16.5	496	12.3	45	49
1943	38,400	565	16.6	509	13.2	45	49
1944	36,360	593	17.9	524	14.4	41	46
1945	36,670	492	15.5	497	13.5	33	46
1946	39,690	677	18.9	493	12.4	32	43
1947	40,480	744	19.6	534	13.2	20	41
1948	41,770	611	15.6	453	10.8	28	34
1949	42,150	592	14.8	518	12.3	37	32
1950	42,030	554	13.7	564	13.4	22	30
1951	42,220	530	13.2	551	13.0	20	29
1952	42,460	599	14.4	532	12.5	21	27
1953	44,890	654	15.2	637	14.2	30	26
1954	47,610	666	14.4	572	12.0	13	25
1955	48,180	637	13.6	585	12.1	17	25
1956	48,730	663	14.3	592	12.1	7	24
1957	49,330	681	13.8	564	11.6	13	23
1958	49,760	750	15.1	655	13.2	20	22
1959	50,580	706	13.9	586	11.5	14	22

TABLE III

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate
during 1959

	M	F	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	2
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	1	1	2
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	3	4
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	11	14
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	15	6	21
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	17	17
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	29	41	70
15. Leukaemia, aelukaemia	-	2	2
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	32	66	98
18. Coronary disease, angina	39	40	79
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	4	6
20. Other heart disease	41	59	100
21. Other circulatory disease	12	13	25
22. Influenza	5	2	7
23. Pneumonia	6	12	18
24. Bronchitis	15	2	17
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	2	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	2	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	28	51
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	3	7
34. All other accidents	3	9	12
35. Suicide	5	1	6
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Totals	257	329	586

SECTION II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Twelve cottages in the Reigate Heath area were connected to the public water supply in the latter part of the year, at very considerable cost to the owners. These cottages formerly had a supply from a private well of artesian type at an adjoining mineral water factory, which has recently closed down. There were no other important extensions of the public mains, except those necessitated by new building development.

There are now only forty dwellings in the Borough which have not a continuous and direct supply from the East Surrey Water Company. These include thirty-nine cottages in Ladbroke Road, Redhill, which are supplied with mains water from an intermediate storage tank, and a bungalow in Gatton Park, which has a piped and filtered supply from a nearby spring; samples of water from both supplies were reported to be of satisfactory bacterial quality.

The mains water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers. Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about once a week under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company, thus avoiding duplication of sampling. Samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the Analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned. These reports invariably indicated that the chemical and bacterial purity of the water was of a very high standard. No action was necessary, therefore, in respect of any form of contamination.

The Borough Council were notified that the East Surrey Water Company had made application to the Minister of Housing & Local Government to be relieved of the obligation to soften water they might derive from boreholes at Buckland and The Clears, Reigate. It was indicated that these stations would only come into operation in the event of temporary interruption of the existing supply from other sources and to augment the supply to the Borough and neighbouring districts in exceptionally dry seasons, with the object of avoiding restriction on the use of water from the public mains during such periods. The total hardness of the water from both boreholes is somewhat high, but the proposed blending with at least an equal volume of softened water from other sources before distribution to consumers would reduce it to acceptable levels. The Borough Council did not, therefore, offer any opposition to the Company's application.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The new drainage works carried out by the Corporation in 1959 included the laying of 203 lineal yards of foul sewer at White Bushes and a total of 1,284 lineal yards of surface water sewer to improve the drainage arrangements in other parts of the Borough. In addition, 207 lineal yards of foul sewer and 762 lineal yards of surface water sewer were laid in connection with the development of the Council's housing estate at The Dome, Redhill. The necessary adaptations were made at the Sewage Disposal Works at Earlswood to regulate the flow into the storm water tanks.

There was no important change in the arrangements made by the Borough Surveyor for the emptying and disposal of cesspool contents. Two cesspools were abolished when the drainage systems of the houses concerned were connected to the public sewer.

Thirty-five premises have a septic-tank/filter-bed system of sewage disposal. Two installations, draining seven of these properties, were overhauled and repaired during the year.

Closet accommodation

All dwellings in the Borough are on the water carriage system, with the exception of thirteen properties on the rural outskirts of the district. The only type of apparatus available at the latter is a pail or chemical closet, with disposal of sink waste liquids to some form of cesspool or soakaway. There were no conversions to the water carriage system in 1959.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

Public Cleansing

I am indebted to the Cleansing Superintendent for the following information relating to the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse:-

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Special collections are made at the request of tradesmen or householders.

The conditions under which house and trade refuse is temporarily stored are generally satisfactory. Defective and dilapidated receptacles have been replaced, where necessary, and householders have been assisted in this respect by an arrangement under which dustbins of approved pattern are available for sale at the Cleansing Department.

The separate collection of food wastes was continued and results in the production annually of roughly 700 tons of animal feeding-stuffs. The gradual withdrawal of communal waste food bins and the substitution therefor of individual containers on free loan to householders has continued and will probably be completed within the next year or so.

The arrangements made for the extraction and salvage of waste paper, bottles, textiles, metals, etc., have continued in operation and make a very valuable contribution to the economical disposal of refuse collected in the Borough. The residue of the refuse, amounting to roughly 17,000 tons is disposed of by incineration.

Both incinerator units have been reconstructed, and working conditions in the screen and hopper houses have been greatly improved by the renewal of certain plant and the installation of new dust-extraction units.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in respect of them will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1950, continue to be made as and when necessary.

Camping Sites

No new licences were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of caravans intended for permanent residential use. Two existing licences were renewed, as compared with six in 1958 and eleven in 1957. The progressive reduction in the number of individual licences granted is largely due to the present policy of the Local Planning Authority in concentrating such caravans, as far as possible, on properly organised and licensed sites.

The Corporation Caravan Site in Three Arch Road, Redhill, has accommodation for a maximum of forty caravans and is almost exclusively restricted to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. A few plots have intentionally been kept vacant and so immediately available for very urgent or special cases. In 1959 there were eight new lettings and eight families left the site; a total of forty-six families were in occupation at some time during the year. The site is visited at least once a week by a Public Health Inspector to ensure that it is properly conducted and that a satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained in the ablution and sanitary blocks. The amenities on the site were improved by the extension of the electricity supply to make current available to each caravan.

The three privately-owned sites in the Borough continued in use during 1959 and have accommodation for a total of 148 caravans. These sites also are regularly inspected and, on the whole, are satisfactorily conducted and maintained.

Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act, 1956)

There were six complaints of nuisance from smoke in 1959, as compared with twelve in the previous year. They related to three premises with steam-raising boilers and one with a furnace for space heating, in three instances fired by solid fuel and in one by oil. In three cases the nuisance was abated by the use of better quality fuel and more efficient operation of the plant; in the other case, the boiler plant was converted to oil-firing, in place of solid fuel, with satisfactory results.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Two swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. The baths are filled from the public mains and are emptied and re-filled, usually once in the season, if the chemical quality of the water tends to fall below the required standard.

The purification plants at both baths were extensively overhauled and partly renewed in the latter part of 1958, with the object of increasing their efficiency and capacity to deal effectively with heavier bathing loads. They were tested to the full by the very greatly increased use of the baths during the long hot summer. It is of interest to report that samples taken at the height of the bathing season were reported to be of satisfactory chemical quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Certain additional precautionary measures were adopted at both baths to minimise the risk of infectious foot conditions being conveyed from one bather to another.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The disinfection of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

Factories Acts, 1937, 1948 and 1950

In accordance with the requirements of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, I submit the following particulars of action taken during 1959 in relation to factory premises:-

(1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	14	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	177	126	-	-
(iii) Others	27	28	-	-
TOTALS	228	168	-	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient ..	3	3	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	5	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	13	14	-	-	-

(3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

In compliance with the requirements of Section 110 (i) (c), notice was given by one local employer in respect of one out worker engaged on the making of wearing apparel.

Thirteen lists were received from other Authorities in relation to twelve out workers. It was found, on inspection, that the work was not in any instance being done in unwholesome premises.

SECTION III

HOUSING

Statistical particulars relating to the demolition, closure and repair of unfit houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The particulars supplied under these headings in respect of the year 1959 are briefly summarised as follows:-

(a)	(i) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, Section 42)	Nil
	(ii) Families rehoused from Clearance Areas (Cromwell Road, Marketfield Road and Brighton Road, Redhill)	15 (38 persons)
(b)	Individual unfit houses dealt with (Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 & 17) -	
	(i) Demolished (Warwick Road, Redhill; 129 & 129A Garlands Road, Redhill; 25 & 27 Holmesdale Road, Reigate)	20
	(ii) Closed (Parkvale, North Road, Reigate)	1
	(iii) Families rehoused (Warwick Road & North Street, Redhill; Parkvale, North Road, Reigate; Taisborough, London Road, Reigate)	28 (69 persons)
(c)	Unfit houses made fit -	
	(i) Informally - by owner	55
	(ii) After formal notice	Nil

The following information is of interest:-

(d)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	210
(e)	Number of dwelling-houses - included in (d) above - inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	25
(f)	Number of dwelling-houses represented as unfit and suitable for statutory action -	
	(i) Under Section 42, Housing Act, 1957 ..	10
	(ii) Under Sections 16 & 17 Housing Act, 1957	3
	(iii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	17
(g)	(i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1959	1
	(ii) Number of cases relieved during 1959 ..	Nil
	(iii) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1959	1
	Number of families dwelling therein ..	2
	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	7
	(iv) Number of dwelling-houses which again became overcrowded after the Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

The Council's programme for the clearance of unfit houses continued satisfactorily in 1959, though progress was somewhat impeded by difficulties in connection with re-housing and protracted negotiations for the acquisition of properties comprised in the Compulsory Purchase Orders already made. It was consequently not possible to proceed with the demolition of properties in Clearance Areas, but twenty other dwellings were demolished. These included sixteen houses in Warwick Road, Redhill, which had been acquired by the Council as part of the Dome Estate and had been certified in 1958 as unfit for human habitation, and four, which were represented individually as unfit and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense. Forty-three families, comprising 107 persons, were re-housed from unfit properties during the year.

Ten dwelling houses on Earlswood Common were officially represented as suitable for clearance area procedure and were eventually included in the Reigate Borough (Lake Cottages, Earlswood Common, Redhill) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1959. Three other dwellings were represented as being unfit for human habitation; Demolition Orders were made in respect of two (76 and 78 Garlands Road, Redhill), and the Council accepted an undertaking by the owner of the third (37 Holmethorpe, Redhill) that the dwelling, when vacated, would not be re-occupied until it had been put into a satisfactory state of repair. Seventeen houses in the ownership of the Corporation (16 in North Street, Redhill and 1 in London Road, Reigate) were certified to be unfit for human habitation and were recommended for demolition; these properties have since been demolished.

Attention might again be drawn to the very small number of known cases of statutory overcrowding in the Borough.

The Council's Housing Manager has kindly supplied the following particulars with regard to rehousing:-

1.	<u>Number of new dwellings completed during the year</u>	
	Erected by Borough Council (including conversions)	115
	Erected by private enterprise	221
		<hr/> 336
2.	<u>Number of flatlets for older people obtained from conversions</u>	19
3.	<u>Families rehoused from waiting list:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	26
	In permanent Council flats	45
	In old people's bungalows	3
	In miscellaneous property (including old people's flatlets)	16
		<hr/> 90
4.	<u>Families rehoused from unfit properties:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	14
	In permanent Council flats	19
	In prefabricated bungalows	2
	In old people's bungalows	1
	In miscellaneous property	5
		<hr/> 41
5.	<u>Families transferred from requisitioned properties:-</u>	
	To permanent Council houses	12
	To permanent Council flats	4
	To old people's bungalows	1
		<hr/> 17
6.	<u>Families transferred from one type of Council dwelling to another:-</u>	118
7.	<u>Tenants of other Local Authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	6
8.	<u>Tenants of private landlords who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	4

SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, made by the Minister of Food under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1959 are summarised in Table IV, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a very high standard of bacterial purity.

Of 5 samples of tuberculin-tested milk and 108 samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination, 82 passed the prescribed test for keeping quality; the test could not usefully be applied to the other 31 samples because of the high atmospheric temperature at the time of the examination. All the samples of pasteurised milk satisfied the phosphatase test, indicating that the heat treatment had been correctly and efficiently applied.

Six samples of milk submitted to biological examination were reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis. Freedom from infection of this nature has been one of the most conspicuous and satisfactory features of reports on milk examination in recent years and is, no doubt an indication of the efficacy of the measures adopted to combat it.

Periodic biological testing is confined to milk that will not be subjected to heat treatment before delivery to the consumer. There are now only two local producers of tuberculin-tested milk, which is sold by retail from a dairy in the Borough.

TABLE IV

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbidity
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Test Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory
Tuberculin-Tested: 5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised): 50	39	-	11	50	-	-
Pasteurised: 58	38	-	20	58	-	-
Sterilised: 8	-	-	-	-	-	8

2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
6	Nil	0.00

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 & 1950

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to twenty-one dealers retailing milk in the area:-

			<u>Number of</u> <u>Licences</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Premises</u>
<u>Type of Licence</u>				
Pasteurised	..	Pasteuriser's	1	1
"	..	Dealers	10	20
"	..	Supplementary	5	-
Tuberculin Tested		Dealer's	4	15
"	"	Supplementary	5	-
Sterilised	..	Dealer's	12	17
"	..	Supplementary	1	-

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 47 and 48 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringements were reported.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D.D.Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

There are no premises in the Borough where ice-cream is manufactured for sale. A total of 121 confectioners, grocers, fruiterers, newsagents, etc., are registered for the retail sale of ice-cream which, in every instance, is obtained pre-packed from one or other of the large manufacturing and distributing firms. Hotels, catering establishments and cinemas are exempt from registration.

Twelve samples of ice-cream (nine from registered retailers and three from other establishments in the Borough) were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. Eleven were placed in provisional Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling. The remaining sample, which had been taken at a local hotel, was much below this standard because of faulty conditions of storage and handling. The matter was taken up with the proprietor, who took the necessary steps to secure improvement in these respects.

Chemical or bacteriological examination of other foods was not called for during the year.

SECTION V

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are admitted to the Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise, they are sent to suitable hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region. The disposal of notified cases to different hospitals during the year was as follows:-

Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bletchingley	18 cases
East Surrey Hospital, Redhill	13 "
Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton	6 "
Redhill County Hospital, Redhill	4 "
Cuddington Hospital, Banstead	1 case
Netherne Hospital, Coulsdon	1 "

Uncomplicated cases of the commoner infections, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are not usually accepted, unless recommended by the Medical Officer of Health on the grounds that the patient cannot be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home; several such cases were admitted to hospital during the year.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out generally in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Memorandum issued jointly in 1956 by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Table V shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox

No confirmed or suspected case of small-pox was reported in the Borough in 1959. A local resident who was believed to have been in contact with a case elsewhere was kept under surveillance for the prescribed period.

Scarlet Fever

The number of notified cases of scarlet fever was much greater than usual and, in several instances, the clinical type of the disease was rather more severe than has been customary in recent years. The cases occurred mainly in the first half of the year and amongst children of school age, and were widely scattered in geographical distribution. Multiple cases in the same households and in residential institutions were relatively common. Thirteen cases were removed to hospital and the remainder were satisfactorily isolated and treated in their own homes. In accordance with modern practice no restrictions were imposed on immediate contacts, with the exception of those whose occupation might involve undue risk of spread of infection.

Diphtheria

For the eighth consecutive year no confirmed or suspected case of diphtheria was reported.

TABLE V

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR, 1959

	Cases notified in age periods											Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and Over		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	8	4	35	12	1	-	-	1	-	13	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	5	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	24	87	138	154	151	604	68	10	7	3	2	-	7	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	-	1	1	12	5	2	7	3	17	23	19	18 *
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Food poisoning	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	-
	25	91	144	163	159	671	91	14	19	7	21	24	43	21
Totals 1958	4	9	13	13	14	60	6	3	4	2	8	4	25	35

* All forms.

Whooping Cough

There was a further decline in the rate of prevalence of whooping cough, of which sixteen cases were notified, as compared with 23 in 1958, 133 in 1957 and an average of 192 cases per annum in the preceding ten years. The disease was generally mild in type and of short duration, especially so in children who had previously been vaccinated against it. It was again noted that many vaccinated children escaped infection though intimately exposed to it. For the eighth consecutive year no mortality was attributed to whooping cough or its complications.

Measles

Measles follows a fairly well-defined cycle of epidemic prevalence in alternate years. The very low incidence of the disease in 1958 was followed by a widespread outbreak in the early summer of 1959, when children under school age and those newly admitted to infants' departments were, as usual, mainly affected. Seven cases were taken to hospital for treatment of respiratory complications or because of lack of adequate facilities for home isolation; the remainder were supervised in their own homes.

The two deaths attributed to measles were of very young children who were patients in a mental hospital and in whom the disease was complicated by broncho-pneumonia. The rates of prevalence and mortality of measles in 1959 did not exceed those usually experienced in a year of epidemic prevalence.

Dysentery

The nineteen notified cases of dysentery were all of the Flexner type and occurred in a circumscribed outbreak in a residential institution. Effective measures were promptly taken to prevent the occurrence of further cases. No cases of dysentery were reported in the general population.

Pneumonia

The rate of prevalence of pneumonia in 1959 was very much above any previously observed in the Borough. Most of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year and roughly one-half were stated to be secondary to influenza, which was unduly prevalent at that time. Nineteen cases were treated in hospital; the remainder were visited by the Health Visitors with a view to the supply of any nursing or domestic assistance that might be necessary.

In spite of the abnormally high prevalence of pneumonia, the mortality ascribed to the disease was exceptionally low and was, in the main, confined to patients in the advanced age groups. The nineteen deaths recorded under this heading include many due to non-notifiable forms of pneumonia, so that the rate of mortality is not truly represented by the ratio of deaths to notified cases; there were, in fact, very few deaths among the latter.

Poliomyelitis

There were no confirmed cases of poliomyelitis in the Borough in 1959 - the first year of complete freedom from the disease in the past ten years. This very favourable circumstance may possibly be an indication of the efficacy of protective inoculation.

Four suspected cases were not confirmed after full investigation in hospital.

Meningococcal Infection

The one notified case of meningococcal infection (cerebro-spinal fever) occurred in a residential institution and died within a few days. As the patient was not normally resident in the Borough, the death is not officially included in the local mortality returns.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case of paratyphoid fever was reported. The patient became ill while on holiday in France and was admitted to hospital shortly after her return home. Laboratory investigation revealed infection with S. Paratyphi B (Phage type - dundee). Specimens from immediate contacts yielded negative results for paratyphoid infection.

Two children were admitted to a local hospital from a neighbouring district in which paratyphoid fever was, at that time, prevalent. Both were found to be suffering from the disease and were promptly placed in isolation. Specimens from twenty-six other children who had been in the same ward were submitted for examination, with negative results in each case.

Food Poisoning

There were two confirmed cases of moderately severe gastro-enteritis due to bacterial food poisoning. One case, in which the infecting organism was identified as Salmonella Newport and in all probability derived from contaminated duck eggs, was successfully treated in hospital. The other was due to infection with Salmonella typhimurium (Phage type 2 d), the source of which could not be traced. Specimens from other members of the affected households yielded negative results for food poisoning organisms.

Routine supervision, including the repeated collection of specimens for laboratory examination, was exercised over four shop assistants employed in local branches of a multiple store and who had symptoms of mild gastro-enteritis following their attendance at a staff party in London. All were excreting food poisoning organisms (Salmonella typhimurium - Phage type 2 c) and were suspended from employment involving the handling of food until they were shown to be free from infection. It was later reported that at least 200 of the 800 guests at the party had been similarly affected, and by the same type of organism, which had undoubtedly been derived from pineapple and chicken vol-au-vent, which all the affected persons had eaten.

Puerperal pyrexia

Three women were reported to have a rise of temperature in the lying-in period, in two cases due to recognised non-puerperal causes. One was treated in hospital and the other two in their own homes; all recovered satisfactorily. The total number of cases is very much smaller than usual.

Erysipelas

There were four reported cases of erysipelas, one of which was treated in hospital and the remaining three in their own homes. All recovered satisfactorily.

Other diseases

Eight cases of acute gastro-enteritis, seven of suspected meningitis and two of acute tonsillitis, mainly affecting young children and believed to be due to acute specific infection, were removed to hospital for observation. Laboratory investigation did not confirm the presence of an infecting agent in any of these cases.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table VI, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

There were 22 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis in 1959, as compared with 20 in 1958, 30 in 1957 and an average of 31 per annum in the preceding ten years. The relative numbers of males and females affected, and the distribution of cases in the various age groups, did not differ significantly from those observed in the past, apart from a slight shifting of incidence from adolescence to early middle age. Several of the new cases were discovered through the medium of mass radiography and were detected at an early stage, with consequently enhanced prospect of successful treatment and complete recovery. The two deaths assigned to the disease represent a mortality rate of 0.03 per 1,000 of the population, which is very much lower than any previously recorded in the Borough. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.07.

The position is no less favourable in relation to non-respiratory tuberculosis, of which three cases were reported. Two of the cases notified were student nurses in a local hospital, though there was no reason to believe that they had become infected in the course of their employment. The case rate for non-respiratory tuberculosis was 0.05 per 1,000 population, which is considerably below the average for the Borough. No mortality was attributed to this form of the disease.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of 31 previously known cases of tuberculosis (30 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory in type) who had been notified elsewhere and had taken up residence in the Borough. The majority of these are under supervision of the Chest Physician for the area.

At the end of the year there were 369 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 342 (201 males and 141 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 27 (9 males and 18 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic. The total number of cases represents a reduction of 23 on the corresponding figures for 1958; this is very largely due to a revision of the register and the deletion of names of patients who were known to have permanently left the district or had died from causes other than tuberculosis.

The names of 81 cases were removed from the register of tuberculous persons, 45 on leaving the district, 7 on death, 28 on complete recovery from the disease and 1, on being reported, after full investigation, to be non-tuberculous.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade) nor under Section 127 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis)

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

TABLE VI

New cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1959, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

Age Periods	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	..	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	..	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards	..	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	12	10	-	3	2	-	-	-
Totals 1958	12	8	-	4	3	2	-	1

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Small-pox

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccination performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	<u>0 - 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Over 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary Vaccination	453	40	25	32	550
Re-vaccination	-	5	32	205	242

The total number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations is very much greater than usual. It is of special interest to note that the number of primary vaccinations of infants under the age of one year represents an acceptance rate of rather more than 64.0 per cent of the infants in the age group.

A considerable number of the re-vaccinations were of persons who were required to produce certificates of recent vaccination to enable them to travel abroad. Such certificates must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the vaccination was performed.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 10</u> <u>years</u>	<u>10 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
495	108	14	5	5	14	2	643

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 459 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

The number of children immunised against diphtheria in 1959 was substantially greater than in the previous year, when attention was concentrated on the poliomyelitis vaccination programme. It is estimated that rather more than 70 per cent of the infants born in 1959 were immunised against diphtheria, in most cases in combination with whooping cough vaccination. The use of combined vaccines for simultaneous protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus was suspended during the summer months in view of their possible role in provoking the onset of poliomyelitis.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme for vaccination against whooping cough is directed mainly to infants under the age of one year, in whom the disease is most likely to be fatal or followed by serious complications. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 10</u> <u>years</u>	<u>10 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
492	105	11	3	3	9	2	625

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 95 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation four or five years previously.

The number of young infants vaccinated against whooping cough is considerably higher than in 1958 and represents a very satisfactory proportion of those eligible for treatment. Although vaccination does not, in every case, afford absolute protection against the disease, it undoubtedly confers a high degree of immunity and greatly reduces the severity and duration of the illness in vaccinated children who are attacked.

Vaccination against Tetanus

Vaccination against Tetanus is available to children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected. Tetanus vaccine may be given separately, but is often combined with the agents used for active immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, thus reducing the number of inoculations and affording simultaneous protection against all three diseases. The number of persons vaccinated against tetanus in 1959 were as follows:-

0 - 5 years	564
5 - 15 years	29
	<hr/>
	593
	<hr/>

Reinforcing injections were given to 46 children who had previously completed a course of immunisation.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The groups eligible for vaccination against poliomyelitis in 1959 were persons between the ages of six months and twenty-five years, together with certain priority groups, including expectant mothers, medical practitioners and their families, nurses, ambulance personnel and others exposed to special risk. Third injections were offered to those who had had their second injection not less than seven months previously.

The numbers vaccinated against poliomyelitis by their own doctors or at the County Council's Clinics during the year, are as follows:-

Children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years	2,738
Young persons between the ages of 15 and 25 years	2,789
Expectant mothers	279
Medical practitioners, hospital staff and families	6
Ambulance personnel	18
Third injections	8,453

Special attention should be drawn to the relatively high rate of acceptance of vaccination by persons in the fifteen to twenty-five year age group. This was largely due to the attendance of the County Council's medical officers at factory and business premises for the purpose of giving injections where the numbers of eligible persons accepting treatment justified such arrangements.

Measles prophylaxis

Immune serum is available through the Public Health Department for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts. Only one request for serum was received during the year.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

The arrangements for the routine B.C.G.vaccination of thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council and independent schools continued during the year. Subject to the consent of their parents, the pupils in this age group are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G.vaccination. Testing was conducted at fourteen schools in the Borough during the year, with the following results:-

Number of pupils in age group	1156
Number consenting to treatment	745
Percentage consenting to treatment	64.4%
Number Mantoux tested	683
Number of negative reactors	631
Percentage giving negative reaction	92.4%
Number vaccinated	631
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated	100%

The proportion of eligible pupils who consented to treatment and of those who failed to react to the test showed wide variation at different schools, but in both cases were, on the whole, roughly the same as those recorded in other areas. The percentage of negative reactors vaccinated is especially satisfactory. The re-testing of vaccinated pupils has been discontinued in view of the very high proportion who have been found, in the past, to have acquired the desired level of immunity as a result of the B.C.G.vaccination.

In addition to the above, 69 pupils who had failed to keep appointments in 1958 were Mantoux tested; 62 of this group were negative reactors and were successfully vaccinated.

While the primary purpose of the scheme is the ascertainment and vaccination of children who have not already had a primary infection, it is the usual practice to arrange, where possible, for x-ray examination of positive reactors to exclude the possibility of active infection. No unfavourable x-ray findings were reported during the year.

It was not found necessary in 1959 to conduct a special investigation at any school in the Borough consequent on the discovery of an infectious case of tuberculosis amongst pupils or teaching staff.

Protection against other diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at specified centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the vaccination is performed.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees, the periodic statements of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in relation to insured persons and the Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

So far as could thus be ascertained there was no undue prevalence of non-notifiable infection in 1959, apart from the occurrence of a considerable number of cases of influenza in the early months of the year. These were of relatively mild clinical type and did not cause much interference with school attendance, neither did they give rise to any appreciable increase in the number of sickness claims submitted to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. The infection was associated with low mortality, which was in the main confined to persons of advanced age who were at the time suffering from grave chronic disease or who developed secondary respiratory complications.

Otherwise, there is little of interest to report, except a very small outbreak of chickenpox in the Reigate area and a group of cases of mumps in Merstham. The advice and assistance of the Public Health Department was frequently sought in connection with scattered cases of moderately severe vomiting and diarrhoea, which was believed to be of virus causation, and acute upper respiratory infection caused by the organisms of scarlet fever, but not subject to the official restrictions applicable to that disease.

Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Uncleanliness

Pediculosis

The reported instances of pediculosis were confined to six children who were found at routine school hygiene inspection to have nits in their hair. None was of such degree as to require exclusion from school. All were promptly and satisfactorily cleansed by their parents, with the advice and assistance of the Health Visitors, and it was not necessary, therefore, to resort to compulsory cleansing under the arrangements made for that purpose; neither was it necessary to undertake the cleansing of any verminous adult at the Corporation Disinfecting Station.

Seabies

One adult and four children were found to be suffering from seabies and were satisfactorily cleansed by the staff of the Health Department. Arrangements were made for the treatment of eight home contacts and for the disinfection of bedding and clothing that might convey infection.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1959

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my twenty-sixth Annual Report which relates to the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1959.

It will be seen from the reports or comments made under the various headings that priority of attention was given to the following matters:-

- (a) work in connection with the Council's five-year programme for the clearance of unfit houses;
- (b) enquiries and applications relating to "standard" grants introduced in the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959;
- (c) problems which continually arise from day-to-day as a result of official inspections, complaints or enquiries relating to food and drink in its many and varied forms, and food premises of equally varied description;
- (d) the inspection of carcase meat, etc., produced as a result of slaughtering operations carried out at the Merstham slaughterhouse, occupied by the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd., and the additional preliminary work relating to future slaughterhouse facilities in the Borough, caused by the operation of new legislation;
- (e) rodent control and the control of other animal and insect pests in a year which was remarkable for a prolonged period of drought and hot weather. These conditions caused abnormal pressure of work on the pest control staff, who were called upon to give assistance to householders and others who were affected by the plague of wasps which was in evidence during the summer and autumn. In doing this they had to have regard to the priority which had to be given to the more important work of continuing the very tight and effective control which has now been reached on rats and mice, pests which it is known are potential transmitters of serious disease to human beings. In this connection it is to be hoped that the changes which were made in 1959 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in their administrative and financial control over local authorities' rodent control arrangements will not have the effect of reducing the amount of work which has been done so successfully by local authorities throughout the country in the years during and since the last war.

The amount of routine inspection work under a number of headings had to be curtailed because of staff shortage at various times; I, myself, had another prolonged spell of sick leave, and I must record the admirable way in which the staff, my deputy in particular, responded to a difficult situation. I wish also to thank Dr. T. H. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his kindness to me personally during this time, and for the encouragement and support he gives to all members of his Department.

I am, Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. JAMES

25th July, 1960

Chief Public Health Inspector

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 110 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and suspected food poisoning. The purpose of such an enquiry is to try and ascertain the cause or origin of the illness, to trace contacts or contaminated or infected food and, if possible, to assist in preventing the occurrence of further cases.

The disinfection or disinfestation of material which may have become infected or infested as a result of infectious illness or vermin infestation continued to be carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This was done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in a compartment specially constructed for this purpose and which can be sealed and rendered air-tight. This work was also carried out on behalf of the neighbouring Rural District Councils of Dorking & Horley, and Godstone.

Detail of the work is given below and, unless otherwise indicated, relates to articles of bedding, clothing, furnishings, etc.:-

(1) Reigate Borough

	<u>From</u> <u>Dwelling-houses</u>	<u>From</u> <u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Infectious & Other Diseases	18	-
Vermin (Lice)	-	-
Miscellaneous	169	213
Rooms Disinfected	7	-
Rooms Disinfested	17	-

(2) Dorking & Horley R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	18	-
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(3) Godstone R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	38	-
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In addition, 72 library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries concerned.

The infestation of dwelling-houses by vermin, such as bed-bugs and fleas, remained a rare occurrence. In 1959 two houses were found to be slightly infested with bed-bugs, and two infested with fleas. All were successfully cleared by a single application of a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. Requests were received for assistance in treating three premises, namely a laundry, a furnishings shop and a nursing home, which were found to be infested in varying degrees by cockroaches and other beetles; a liquid emulsion containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum is used in cases of this type, and has continued to prove an effective method of control. Infestations by flies in the roof spaces of four houses were also dealt with by spraying treatment. Other premises which were disinfested included:-

- (a) Kitchens, etc., of St. Anne's Institution, Redhill, and St. Davids, Wray Park Road, Reigate (Surrey County Council), and premises occupied by the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, which were periodically treated for cockroaches under contract arrangements with those authorities;
- (b) school canteen kitchens under the control of the County Education Authority, which were sprayed with a liquid insecticide during the fly-breeding season to prevent the contamination of food by flies.

Two houses, occupied by elderly persons living alone, were found to be in an insanitary condition; assistance was given in cleansing and disinfection, followed by the removal of soiled material for destruction.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

This subject is governed by the following legislation -

- (a) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.
- (b) Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.
- (c) Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Sections 62 to 79 - Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards.
- (d) Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.
- (e) Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.
- (f) Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924/52.

Twelve applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licence were granted at the beginning of the year, and one new licence was granted in June. No infringement of the Act was noted during 1959.

The slaughtering of all food animals in the Borough continued to be carried out at the Merstham slaughterhouse occupied by the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd. The renewal of the licence of this slaughterhouse came up for review in July, 1959, and the Association were advised that the premises, although they had been well maintained and complied with existing legal standards, did however fall short in some respects of standards laid down in the new Regulations relating to hygienic construction and the humane handling and slaughter of animals. These Regulations would not come into force until a date to be appointed by the Ministry. In view of this the licence was renewed for one year, so that the position could be reviewed at the end of that period; in the meantime the Association could consider the alterations which would have to be made in the premises to comply with the new standards.

As forecast in my last Report, the number of licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough was reduced to one by the end of the period. The premises at West Road, Reigate, for which a renewal licence was refused in 1958, continued unlicensed and unused throughout 1959, no further proposals or application having been received in respect of these premises. The occupier of the one other small slaughterhouse, formerly licensed, did not apply for renewal, as he realized that the premises could not be made to comply with the new Regulations; the licence, therefore, lapsed at the end of 1958.

An Order & Direction made early in 1959 under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, indicated that all local authorities should submit to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food within twelve months from the 2nd November, 1959, a special Slaughterhouses Report. Each local authority was required to review and report upon existing and probable future requirements of their districts for slaughterhouse facilities, and upon the facilities which were, or were likely to become, available to meet those requirements. Preliminary work was begun towards the end of the year, with a view to the formulation and submission of the Report early in 1960.

Meat inspection at the Merstham slaughterhouse has continued to take up a greater proportion of the time of the Public Health Inspectors, but it is gratifying to record that 100% inspection of carcasses has been achieved once again. No meat leaves there until it has been inspected and passed as fit for human consumption. The results of meat inspection are given in the accompanying Tables on pages 31 and 32. The number of animals slaughtered was slightly lower than in 1958; the incidence of disease found on post-mortem inspection was also lower - tuberculosis in cattle, often found in some part of the carcass a few years ago, is now rare; in 1959 it was found, localised, in only one carcass. The number of cattle found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, a condition which may lead to the development of tapeworm in anyone eating the meat, was in about the same proportion as in the previous year; the routine detailed and thorough examination of beef carcasses which is necessary to reveal this condition must, therefore, be continued with vigilance.

In calculating the percentages of animals found on inspection to be affected by disease other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis, figures relating to cattle and sheep affected with liver fluke, and to pigs suffering from pneumonia or lung congestion, are disregarded as these are common conditions which are not of value for comparative statistical purposes.

The licensed knacker's yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, continued in operation throughout the year; it was mainly used for the cutting up of carcasses of animals which had died or had been slaughtered on the owners'

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Bulls and Cows	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	661	-	68	148	439	3,072
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	661	-	68	148	439	3,072
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	3	2	2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	321	-	26	-	44	948
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerici	48.6	-	42.7	1.4	10.5	30.9
	♂ (16.0)	-	♂ (23.5)	-	♂ (8.2)	≠ (7.1)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.15	-	-	-	-	1.04
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

♂ Percentage excluding Distomatosis
≠ Percentage excluding Pneumonia and
Congestion of Lungs.

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was
3 tons, 10 cwt.

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period.

MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Other Conditions												TOTAL		
		Generalised	Localised	Fever	Dropsy &/or Emaciation also Immaturity	Congestion	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy and Peritonitis	Pneumonia	Cavernous Angioma		Miscellaneous	
BOVINES (excluding calves)	729																	3
Whole Carcases and Offal																		4
Part Carcase																		14
Heads and Tongues			1															77
Lungs			1															301
Livers and Part Livers																		4
Mesentery and Intestines																		
CALVES	148																	2
Whole Carcases and Offal																		-
Lungs																		-
Livers																		-
SHEEP -	439																	2
Whole Carcases and Offal																		2
Part Carcases																		2
Lungs																		19
Livers																		25
PIGS -	3,072																	
Whole Carcases and Offal																		2
Part Carcases																		5
Heads and Tongues			32															35
Lungs			1															839
Livers																		123
Mesentery and Intestines																		8
TOTALS	4,388	-	35	2	2	214	3	5	-	270	103	49	229	537	2	14		1,465

premises; few animals were slaughtered at the knacker's yard. The premises were regularly inspected and a satisfactory standard of hygiene was maintained. Following the occupier's application for the renewal of his licence in November, he was advised that the premises fell short of standards outlined in the new Regulations dealing with humane slaughter, in particular with respect to the provision of a separate room or bay for the slaughter of horses. Few horses are now slaughtered at this knacker's yard, only ten being so dealt with during the year; however, the occupier indicated his willingness to have the necessary work carried out, and the licence was renewed for a further year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 8 & 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The inspection of foodstuffs takes place during the routine inspection of food premises, and also at the request of traders when the fitness of food is thought to be in doubt. Although there was a greater number of such requests as compared with the previous year, food traders are gradually returning to the practice common in the wholesale and retail trades before the war, of an exchange system within the trade of obviously unfit commodities which did not require official condemnation certificates issued by local authority officers. It was a system which worked satisfactorily, but it had to be abandoned when rationing came into force.

The need for some system of coding of pre-packed foods and of certain pre-packed cooked meat products, so as to facilitate regular turnover of stocks and to trace dates of manufacture and delivery to retail premises when the quality of the products are in dispute, continued frequently in evidence. The larger manufacturers make use of concealed codes, but these are of little value to distributors and retailers, as reading the codes to establish dates of production can only be done by the firm in question; they are, of course, of some assistance when investigating complaints of unsound foodstuffs, but in many cases it is essential that retailers should institute their own system, as it is found in practice to be relatively easy for cooked meat products to be kept exposed for sale when approaching a stale and therefore potentially dangerous condition.

During 1959 the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works:-

Meat and offal	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Meat - canned	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Ham - canned	144 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sausages	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Chicken	9
Sugar and Preserves	4 lbs.
Dried fruit	94 lbs.
Tinned fish	16 tins
" fruit	169 tins
" fruit juice	3 tins
" milk	1 tin
" soup	2 tins
" vegetables	15 tins
" coffee	20 tins
Tinned and Packet food (miscellaneous)	113 tins and packets
Sweets and Chocolate	7,857 packets
Ice-cream	197 blocks.

This work involved 77 visits by the Inspectors.

The number of complaints made by purchasers of food which they allege is of unsatisfactory quality, or which is found to contain foreign material, tends to increase. One hopes that this may to some extent be due to an awareness on the part of housewives of the need for a higher standard of hygiene in our food premises, or perhaps to an increasing awareness that local health officers have an interest in this matter, and can be of assistance. Certainly it is most useful to have this co-operation of the public, and although the investigation of the complaints takes up a lot of time in interviews and correspondence, the results are always worth while.

Unfortunately the investigations reveal, more often than not, that one must have regard to other factors in trying to find reasons for the increase. Too often it is found that, in spite of the precautions which the more enlightened and progressive manufacturers and retail traders take to prevent the sale of contaminated food, at some stage in the chain of processing, packing and handling before the food reaches the purchaser, the human element fails. It may be a simple act of carelessness, or a momentary lapse of concentration on the part of an employee, and health may immediately be endangered, a doubt may be cast on a firm's reputation and public confidence in a particular foodstuff lowered. One also finds that there is a lack of appreciation by managerial and supervisory staffs of the fact that the sale to the public of the necessities of life in the shape of foodstuffs carries with it, in addition to the profit motive, the responsibilities of service, one of which is to ensure that the food when it leaves their possession is of good quality, clean, palatable and safe to eat or drink. It is sometimes necessary for local authorities, acting as Food & Drugs authorities, to emphasize and bring home this fact to offending employers by taking legal proceedings in suitable cases. Very often though, complainants are unwilling to go into court to give evidence, and in other cases the publicity resulting from prosecutions would often recoil heavily on those least to blame. Of the 18 complaints received during 1959, all of which were thoroughly investigated, three could not be justified, and in no case was there sufficient evidence to warrant a special report to the Public Health Committee recommending consideration of legal proceedings. In six cases vendors were warned that improvements in handling methods were indicated; five cases were due to lack of a proper system in making a quick and regular turnover of stock; there were two cases of apparently dirty milk bottles, and two cases of a cream cake found to have a wasp adhering to the cream.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 13 to 21 - Hygiene in connection with the sale of Food, etc. to the Public
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

This branch of the work was devoted during 1959 to consolidation and the maintenance of standards already achieved. Now that most of the branches of the food trades in the Borough are in their premises complying with the standards of the Hygiene Regulations, the figures dealing with improvements in structure, fittings, ablution facilities, hot water supplies and the like, show a decline over previous years. There were very few cases where traders were found on inspection to have fallen seriously below standard. The emphasis continues to be on the need for education of the food handler, who is so often found not to be genuinely interested in the job, mainly because he or she has not been fully trained in the rudiments of the particular trade or business, or even in the elementary principles of clean and hygienic practices applicable to the work. Blame for this must rest on the large number of employers who continue to show little or no interest in the proper training of their staffs; and lag far behind the more progressive firms who set a high standard in these matters; their efforts are an encouragement to local authorities and their officers, and should be an example for their less enlightened fellow-traders to follow.

Primary inspections made at food premises were as follows:-

Catering Establishments	...	...	...	69
Bakehouses	...	...	...	21
Grocers	...	...	...	51
Butchers	...	...	...	33
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	...	...	...	22
Fishmongers	...	...	...	18
Confectioners	...	...	...	28
Vehicles and Stalls	...	...	...	15

Routine follow-up inspections under the Regulations involved
167 visits.

The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Butchers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Confectioners (including 13 bakehouses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Catering Establishments (including 70 Public Houses and 25 School canteen-kitchens)	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
Food Manufactories	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Five hundred and twenty-two visits of inspection were made to the above-named food premises.

Premises which are required to be registered under Section 16 are shown below in detail as being on the register at the end of 1959.

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved food, etc.:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc.	27	33
Fish-fryers	11	16
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	1	1
Total	39	50

(b) Storage and sale of ice-cream:

Confectioners, etc.	82	21
Grocers, etc.	32	17
Fruiterers, etc.	4	2
Newsagents, etc.	3	3
Total	121	43

In addition to the above-named premises, there are 13 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises which are exempt from registration under existing law.

The arrangement was continued with the Borough Surveyor whereby plans of new shops, canteens, licensed premises, etc., submitted for bye-law approval, were examined in this Department and comment made on any aspect of public health legislation necessarily involved. In many cases problems arose as to satisfactory and suitable means of ventilation, having regard to the nature of the business proposed. Co-operation by architects and builders has been generally good.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 89 to 99 - Sampling and Analysis

One hundred and four samples purchased by the sampling officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. They covered a wide range of commodities and were reported, with one exception, to be satisfactory. The exception concerned the labelling of pre-packed "chopped chicken in jelly", and the Public Analyst reported that both labels on the jars of this commodity should bear the full description, having regard to the comparatively low meat content. The attention of the firm in question was drawn to this matter, and a revision in labelling was carried out.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder

These Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:

Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins; eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes; bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin, the object being to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing between goods of Home, Empire or Foreign origin. Fifty visits of inspection were made and food traders concerned were found to be complying with these Orders in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The few minor infringements noted related to the marking of imported meat, apples and tomatoes, but verbal requests by the Inspectors for compliance with the Orders secured correct marking.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: D. D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adversely Reported upon
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	6	4	4	7	21	21	-
Ice-cream	-	-	6	-	6	6	-
Cream	-	3	-	-	3	3	-
Margarine	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cheese	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dripping	1	-	1	-	2	2	-
Sausages - Pork	2	-	-	1	3	3	-
Sausages - Beef	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Minced Meat	1	-	1	-	2	2	-
Meat Pies	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Luncheon Meats	3	-	-	-	3	3	-
Meat & Fish Pastes	1	-	-	1	2	1	1
Flour	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Table Jellies	-	1	1	-	2	2	-
Dried Fruit, Peel, etc.	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Jams, Honey, etc.	2	-	1	-	3	3	-
Sauces & Pickles	-	10	-	8	18	18	-
Tea	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Soft Drinks	-	4	-	-	4	4	-
Flavourings & Colours	1	1	1	-	3	3	-
Condiments	1	-	2	1	4	4	-
Mixed Spices	1	-	-	1	2	2	-
Foods, Miscellaneous	2	4	1	-	7	7	-
Beer	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Whisky	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Gin	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Drugs, various	2	1	2	-	5	5	-
TOTALS	29	28	20	27	104	103	1

Milk and Dairies General Regulations, 1959

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

Distributors:

(a)	With 3 dairies in the Borough	...	...	...	2
(b)	With dairies outside the Borough	...	...	...	5
(c)	With premises in the Borough	...	...	...	17
	(bottled milk sold in general shops)				

Of the three dairies, two were used only for the cold storage and distribution of bottled milk. The third is in premises equipped with a high-temperature short-time pasteurising apparatus and other modern fittings. Frequent inspections of these dairies were made during the year, with special attention to the last mentioned one; they were maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the period. As has applied for several years now all milk sold in the Borough must be heat-treated, with the exception of farm-bottled tuberculin-tested milk. Frequent samples of the various grades were taken on a regular sampling basis, and results were without exception satisfactory.

A detailed report on the samples of milk taken in 1959 from producers and distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

The premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of hair-dresser or barber in the Borough are subject to bye-laws made in 1954, under Section 135 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936. These bye-laws require the persons carrying on the business to maintain cleanliness of the premises and of the instruments, towels, equipment and materials used therein. During 1959 no serious infringement of the bye-laws was noted. At the end of the year, the register of premises contained particulars of 18 men's and 26 women's establishments.

Factories Act, 1937, 1948 and 1959

The Table on page 38 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Acts. During the year 168 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 228 entries; in 13 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 14 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories did not draw attention during the year to any defects which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority.

In accordance with Section 34 of the 1937 Act relating to means of escape in case of fire, three factories - which are now subject to these provisions - were examined and certificates issued, after the carrying out of minor alterations considered necessary in all of them. As is customary in such cases the examinations were made in consultation with a Fire Prevention Officer of the Surrey Fire Brigade.

The Factories Act, 1959, provides for the transference of the power of District Councils under the Act of 1937 in regard to means of escape in case of fire to the fire authority, the Surrey County Council. The question of the delegation of these powers by the County Council to District Councils is under consideration.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1959.

Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories
on Register at end of 1959

							<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers	..	..	..	..			2	-
Art Leather Works	..	..	..	..			1	-
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	-
Basket Work	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Book Binder	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Boot Makers and Repairers		..	..	..	..		5	-
Brick Makers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Builders and Contractors		..	..	..	..		6	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers		..	..	..	..		7	-
Cork Disc and Insulation Manufacturers		..	..	..	..		1	-
Corn and Seed Merchants	...	..	..	..	..		3	-
Dairy (Milk Processing)		..	..	..	..		1	-
Dressmakers and Milliners		..	..	..	..		2	3
Dry Cleaners	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Engineers Automobile	..	..	..	..	..		21	-
Engineers Electrical	..	..	..	..	..		2	2
Engineers Light	..	..	..	..	..		37	-
Essence Makers	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Food Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..		4	-
Foundries	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Fullers Earth Works	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Gas Holder Stations	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing		..	..	..	..		1	-
Hardware Assembly	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Hearthstone Works	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Hide Tanning	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..		-	1
Laundries	..	..	..	..	..		4	-
Log Sawing	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Marquee and Tarpaulin Repairers		..	..	..	..		1	-
Mattress Manufacturer	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Mineral Water Manufacturer	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers	..	..	..	..	..		-	2
Motor Body Repairs	..	..	..	..	..		7	-
Motor Cycle and Cycle Repairs		..	..	..	..		2	3
Newspaper Fudging	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Photographic Works, etc.		..	..	..	..		3	-
Plastics	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Precast Concrete Manufacturers		..	..	..	..		1	-
Printers	..	..	..	..	..		9	-
Public Works Contractor		..	..	..	..		1	-
Radio Repairs	..	..	..	..	..		-	1
Rust Proofing	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Sanitary Engineers	..	..	..	..	..		1	2
Scale Repairers	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Shoeing and General Smiths		..	..	..	..		-	2
Shop Fitters	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Soldering Outfit Assembly		..	..	..	..		-	1
Steel Wool Manufacturer		..	..	..	..		1	-
Suitcase Manufacturer		..	..	..	..		1	-
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..		3	2
Thermometer Manufacturer		..	..	..	..		1	-
Timber Merchants	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Tyre Repairs	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Watchmakers	..	..	..	..	..		2	1
Wax Refining Works	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction							27	-
							<u>204</u>	<u>24</u>

TOTALS

Housing Act, 1957

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 and Rent Act, 1957

Housing Subsidies Act, 1956

Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956

Detailed work in connection with the inspection of unfit houses included in the Council's 5-year clearance programme was continued throughout the year; 210 houses were inspected for all purposes, 30 were reported to the Council as unfit for human habitation and, as a result of earlier action, 20 houses were demolished. Preparatory work was carried out in connection with a clearance area involving 10 houses, and a similar area of 16 houses was dealt with, these latter being certified as unfit by the Medical Officer of Health, as they were already in the ownership of the Council. Four other houses were dealt with "individually", with a view to their ultimate demolition.

Prior to the rehousing of families from unfit properties, inspections continued to be made as necessary to deal with the possible problem of vermin (bed-bug or flea) infestation, but again as in the previous year, no case arose requiring special treatment during the period.

The number of applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, fell during 1959, when ten of these applications were received, as compared with fourteen in 1958. One of these was refused, and the owners concerned gave undertakings to have the necessary works carried out in eight of these cases. The remaining application lapsed, as the applicant, an elderly woman who was the tenant, subsequently died.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959

With the coming into operation in June, 1959, of the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959, provision was made for a simpler form of grant than the original improvement grant (now generally known as the "discretionary" grant); the newer "standard" grant being available towards the cost of providing certain stated amenities, where these could be provided without the necessity for structural additions involving much new building work. The grant can be claimed as of right and provides for five basic amenities:- a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom, a washhand basin, hot water supply, a watercloset in or contiguous to the dwelling, and satisfactory facilities for the storage of food. All five must be available in the dwelling when the grant-assisted work is completed. In view of the close relationship which this form of improvement had with normal house repair and improvement work under the Housing Acts generally, it was considered that the supervision of "standard" grants could well be integrated with the normal housing work of the Inspectors. In consequence, 18 applications for "standard" grants were dealt with up to the end of the year, 16 of these being approved; they achieved the following improvements:- 12 baths in separate bathrooms, 13 washhand basins, 13 hot water supplies, improved watercloset accommodation in 6 cases, and 6 satisfactory food stores. One hundred and nine visits of inspection were made in connection with this work. As with the "discretionary" grant, it is a matter of regret that few owners of property appear to be taking up these grants to effect improvements in tenanted houses. In all of the cases so far dealt with, it has been the owner/occupier who has been the applicant.

Liaison continued to be exercised with the Borough Surveyor in proposals dealing with "discretionary" grant applications, and 82 such cases were referred to this Department for observations during the year.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

This Order deals with the inspection and licensing of boiling-plants used by collectors of waste food for animal feeding. Such waste food may spread foot-and-mouth and other animal diseases if not properly boiled for at least one hour. No new applications were received in this connection during 1959. Inspections were continued at the premises already licensed, and it was found that the requirements of the Order were being satisfactorily observed.

Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
House drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Rats or Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	260
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other insect pests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Wasps' nests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	463
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Keeping of animals, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50

Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1959	..	..	..	..	105
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	167
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	161
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1959	..	..	..	..	111

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1959	..	..	..	..	-
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	-
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1959	..	..	..	..	-

Fairground Sanitation

Visits of inspection were made to fairs and circuses operating for short periods on land in the Borough. Temporary sanitary accommodation is erected and an emptying and cleansing service provided by the Borough Surveyor, for which a daily charge is levied. In consequence of the close supervision exercised in these cases and the services now automatically provided, the improvement on these sites continues to be marked. As a result no nuisance arose during the year.

Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953

Consequent on the introduction of this legislation, which deals with safety guards for electric, gas and oil space-heating appliances, it is rare to see an unsatisfactory heater offered for sale. Inspections carried out during 1959 revealed no contravention of the standards laid down.

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired	12
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	13
Chimney-stacks rebuilt or repaired	10
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	10
Other causes of dampness remedied	4
External paintwork renewed	1
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only) ..	118
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	31
Sink gully dishings renewed or repaired	2
Blocked drains cleared	20
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed	12
New W.Cs. installed	16
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	6
Sewage treatment plants or cesspools repaired	2
Cesspools abolished, houses connected to sewer	2
Rooms cleansed or redecorated	9
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	22
Floors, windows and doors repaired or renewed	26
Staircases repaired	2
Food stores provided	1
Sinks renewed or installed	3
Washhand basins renewed or installed	8
Hot water supply installed	3
Baths installed	7
Dustbins renewed	1
Accumulations removed	1
Other nuisances abated	8

Food Premises

Sanitary accommodation improved	3
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	13
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	7
Floors repaired or renewed	11
Preparation tables repaired or renewed	6
Food stores provided	4
Washhand basins installed	4
Ablution facilities otherwise improved	1
Sinks renewed or installed	5
Constant hot water supply installed	7
Accumulations removed	1
Dustbins renewed	2
Other nuisances abated	27

Factories

Drainage systems improved	6
Sanitary accommodation improved	6
Connected to sewer/cesspool abolished	1
New cesspool provided	1
Rooms cleansed	1
Miscellaneous	12

Other Business Premises

New W.Cs. provided	1
Washhand basins installed	1
Blocked drains cleared	2
Drainage system improved or repaired	7
Other nuisances abated	2

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Rodent Control

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below.

		<u>Type of Property</u>				<u>Total</u>
		<u>Local</u> <u>Author-</u> <u>ity</u>	<u>=</u> <u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Agri-</u> <u>cul-</u> <u>tural</u>	<u>All other</u> <u>(including</u> <u>Business &</u> <u>Industrial)</u>	
I.	Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district	<u>28</u>	<u>15,466</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>2,462</u>	<u>18,006</u>
II.	No. of properties inspected during 1959 as a result of:-					
	(a) Notification	8	207	6	53	274
	(b) Survey	16	226	27	12	281
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for another purpose)	-	136	10	281	427
III.	Total inspections, including re-inspections	94	1,453	95	606	2,248
IV.	No. of properties inspected (under II) found to be infested by:-					
	(a) Rats	14	188	13	48	263
	(b) Mice	-	13	-	17	30
V.	No. of infested properties (under IV) treated by Local Authority	14	195	8	64	281
VI.	No. of "block control" schemes carried out.	-	42	2	4	48

= Council houses are included under dwelling-houses

There was a small increase in the number of infestations dealt with during 1959, being accounted for by approximately a 20% increase in those found on residential property. Infestations in these cases were in the main scattered and light, easily brought under control, and the increase appeared to be incidental to the year, due in some measure to the prolonged periods of fine mild weather.

Consequent on the changes in administrative and financial control exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food over local authorities' rodent control work, it became necessary early in the year to consider the most satisfactory way of administering the Act in the future. The withdrawal of the Exchequer Grant of 50% of the net expenditure incurred by the Council had to be considered, in conjunction with the cessation of the rodent control service formerly operated by the Ministry on agricultural land and premises. In order to assess the additional work involved, a survey was carried out at all agricultural holdings and the position discussed with the occupiers concerned, evidence of the infestation problem being noted at the same time. In about half of the cases, arrangements had already been made to employ private servicing firms, or the occupier was carrying out control measures himself. The overall problem was, in consequence, fairly reasonable and it was considered that, with some internal re-organisation, the existing rodent control staff could take on this additional work.

At the same time, it was decided that the nominal charge of 2/6d. per hour for assistance given to householders should cease, and the service in this respect became, in consequence, a free one. Charges at business premises found to be infested continued unaltered, the occupier being expected to meet the full cost of the work carried out, a minimum charge of 15/-d. or the actual cost on a basis of 10/-d. an hour.

Routine treatment of the sewerage system of the Borough was carried out twice during the year, when results of tests made and poisoning carried out were satisfactory. These revealed that rat infestation in the sewers had been virtually eliminated. Of 317 manholes tested only seven were found to give evidence of a local infestation, in each case cleared by systematic poisoning. The Pests Officers continued to maintain regular and effective control at the Council's Refuse and Sewage Disposal Works, and of the banks of the stream or brook which flows through Pedhill and Earlswood.

The control work already detailed was exclusive of that carried out under contract arrangements with:

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary homes, 32 schools and 13 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.;
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital;
- (c) one commercial firm, involving regular routine inspections of five premises owned by a local dairy.

Apart from this rodent control work, the Pests Officers were engaged at Corporation property in dealing with other pests, such as rabbits, foxes, badgers, moles, etc.; four hundred and sixty-three wasps' nests were destroyed during the summer period; the routine trapping of pigeons was continued in the centre of Redhill, where they were again causing nuisance by nesting on certain buildings.

